DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SALMON FLY FISHING ACCESS SITE
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

June 2009

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Salmon Fly Fishing Access Site
Proposed Improvements Project
Draft Environmental Assessment
MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed state action:

The Salmon Fly Fishing Access Site (FAS) is a very popular site even though it currently has limited development. FWP proposes to develop key elements of this FAS to reduce impacts to the stream and stream bank from heavy use. FWP proposes to replace two pioneered boat ramps with a single double-wide concrete ramp, and stabilize and re-vegetate the stream bank along the remaining pioneered area. If funds are available, FWP also proposes to improve the existing gravel parking lot, install barriers and/or fencing to protect and stabilize the stream bank, and replace existing fire rings and picnic tables.

2. Agency authority for the proposed action:

The 1977 Montana Legislature enacted statute 87-1-605, which directs Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to acquire, develop, and operate a system of fishing accesses. The legislature earmarked a funding account to ensure that the fishing access site program would be implemented. Sections 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 15-1-122, 61-3-321, and 87-1-303, MCA, authorize the collection fees and charges for the use of state park system units and fishing access sites, and contain rule-making authority for their use, occupancy, and protection. Furthermore, state statute 23-1-110 MCA and ARM 12.2.433 guides public involvement and comment for the improvements at state parks and fishing access sites, which this document provides.

ARM 12.8.602 requires the Department to consider the wishes of users and the public, the capacity of the site for development, environmental impacts, long-range maintenance, protection of natural features, and impacts on tourism as these elements relate to development or improvement to fishing access sites or state parks. This document will illuminate the facets of the proposed project in relation to this rule. See Appendix A for HB 495 qualification.

3. Name of project:

Salmon Fly Fishing Access Site Proposed Improvements Project

4. Project sponsor:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region 3
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-994-4042

5. Anticipated Schedule:

Estimated Construction Commencement Date: Late summer 2010
Estimated Completion Date: Early fall 2010
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 35%

6. Location:

Salmon Fly Fishing Access Site is located on the Big Hole River 38 miles from the mouth on the right hand side as you face down stream, in the NW1/4 Section 35 T2S R9W. Salmon Fly FAS is located between Maidenrock FAS (4 miles upstream) and Brownes Bridge FAS (6 miles downstream). It is located in Beaverhead County, about one half mile south of Melrose, Montana and one half mile west of Interstate 90.

Figure 1. Salmon Fly Fishing Access Site location

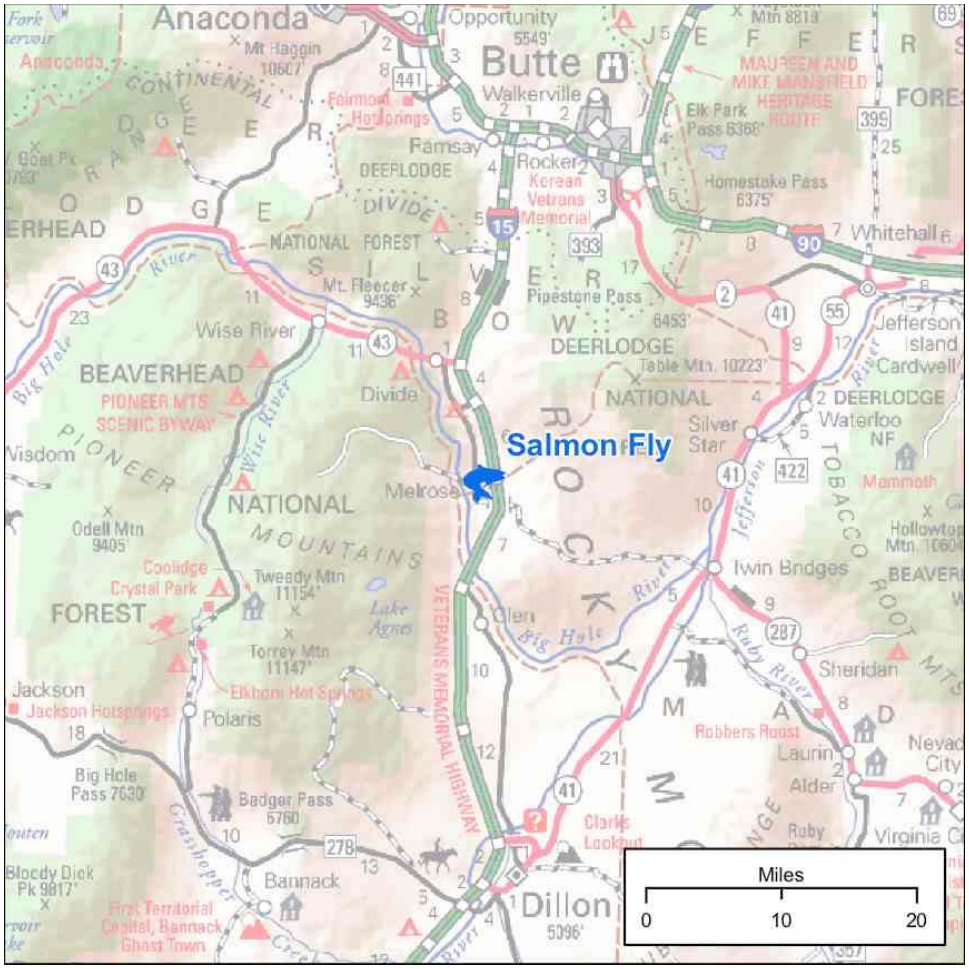


Figure 2. Salmon Fly Fishing Access Site parcel map.

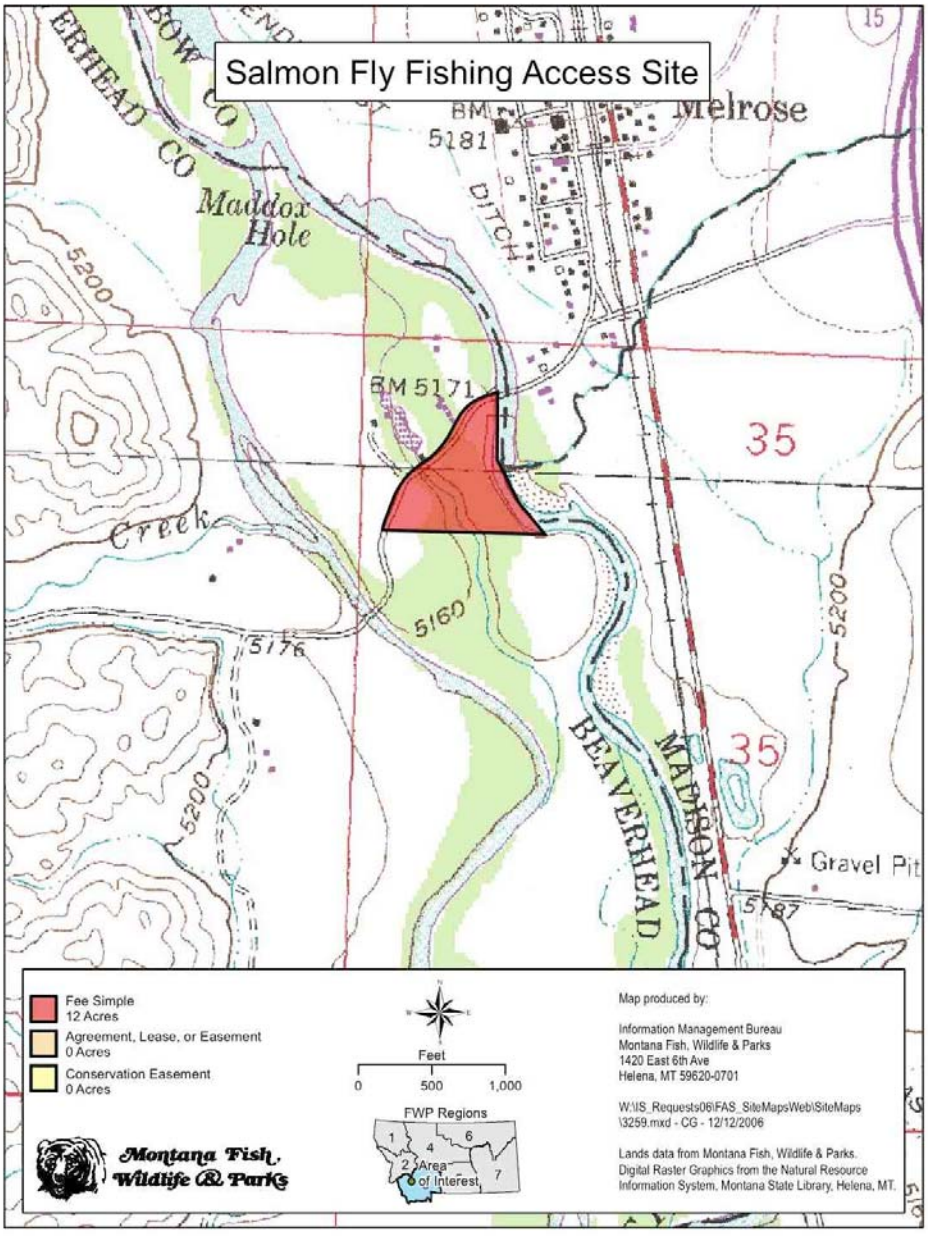
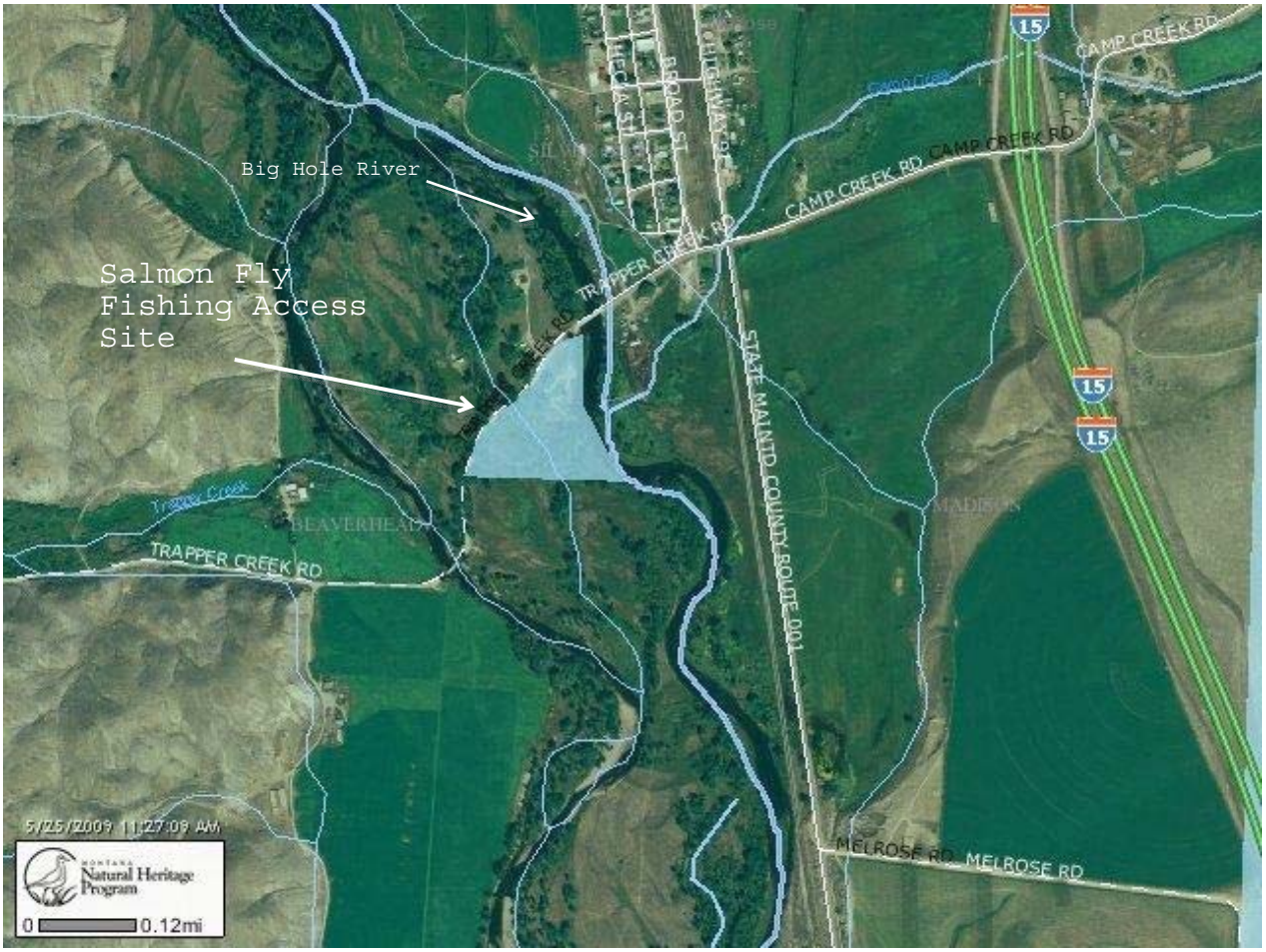


Figure 3. Aerial view of Salmon Fly FAS, located on Hahnkamp Island



7. Project size:

	Acres		Acres
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	0.7
Residential	0		
Industrial	0	(e) Productive:	
		Irrigated cropland	0
(b) Open Space/	0	Dry cropland	0
Woodlands/Recreation		Forestry	0
(c) Wetlands/Riparian	0.7	Rangeland	0
Areas		Other	0

8. Local, State or Federal agencies with overlapping or additional jurisdiction:

(a) Permits: Permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

Agency Name	Permits
Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks	124 MT Stream Protection Act
Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality	318 Short Term Water Quality Standard for Turbidity (If required)
US Army Corps of Engineers	404 Federal Clean Water Act
Beaverhead County	Floodplain Permit

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks FAS Development	$30,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name	Type of Responsibility
Natural Heritage Program	Species of Concern (Appendix B)
State Historic Preservation Office	Cultural Clearance (Appendix E)

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action:

From its modest beginnings at Skinner Lake in the Beaverhead Mountains of southwest Montana, the Big Hole River flows 153 miles to its confluence with the Beaverhead River near Twin Bridges. Early explorers and settlers were drawn to the Big Hole by the sheer size, beauty, and richness of the high elevation valley or “hole” as the trappers called it. The Big Hole River is designated as a Class I or “Blue Ribbon” fishery by FWP and is one of the most heavily used fishing streams in Montana. The river remains free flowing for its entire course, adding to its uniqueness and charm. In addition, the Upper Big Hole contains the last stream-dwelling population of Arctic grayling in the lower 48 states.

An increasing number of anglers are discovering the fishing opportunities of the Big Hole River. Recent surveys conducted by FWP show that the Big Hole River supports over 50,000 angler days per year, with an average of over 30,000 angler days per year in the stretch from the river mouth to Divide (river miles 0 – 50) where Salmon Fly FAS is located (river mile 38). Game fish opportunities in the river include arctic grayling, brook trout, brown trout, burbot, mountain whitefish, and rainbow trout.

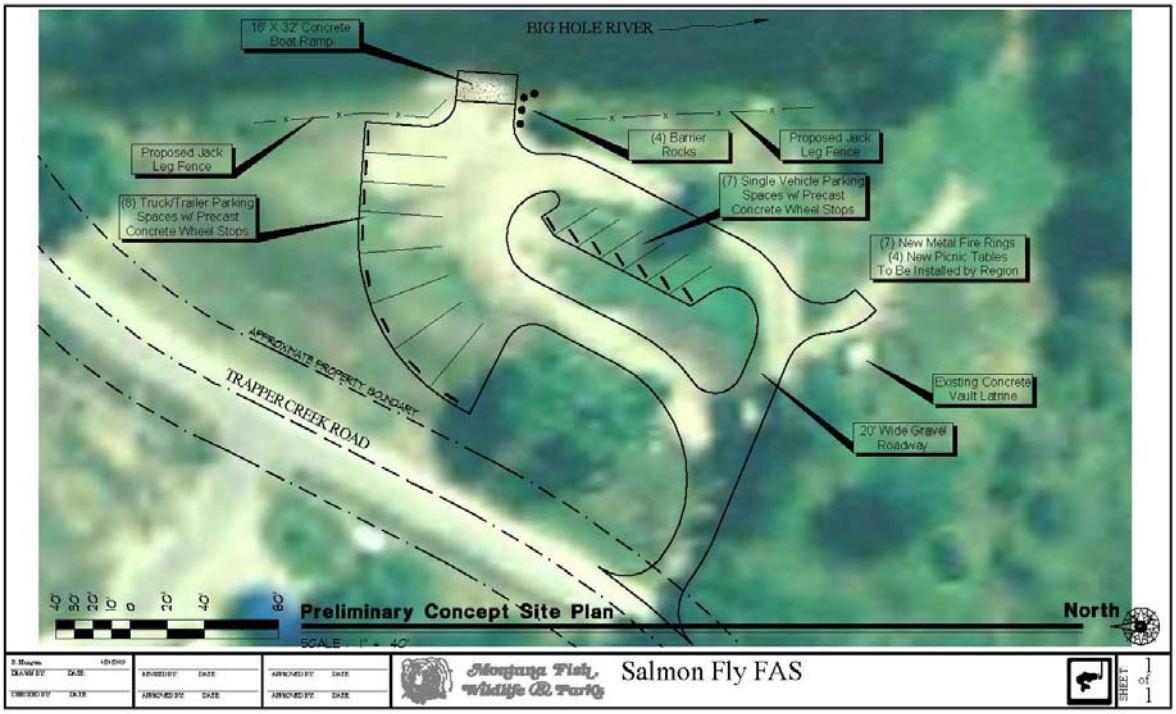
Salmon Fly FAS is located on Hahnkamp Island, a comparatively flat island of gravelly and sandy alluvium in the main current of the Big Hole River. The FAS supports an extensive community of black cottonwood, red-osier dogwood, willow, and reed canarygrass along the river with deciduous forest, dominated by black cottonwood, covering the southern portion. A variety of native and introduced grasses cover the developed portion of the FAS. In addition, the FAS provides high quality riparian wildlife habitat.

Salmon Fly is one of 13 FWP managed fishing access sites on the Big Hole River, a tributary to the Jefferson River. Maidenrock is the next access site upstream from Salmon Fly; Brownes Bridge is the next site downstream. Of the 13 FAS's on the Big Hole River, only 2 others have concrete boat ramps: Fishtrap Creek FAS, 22 miles upstream, and George Grant Memorial FAS, 11 miles upstream

Salmon Fly FAS is a very popular and heavily used FAS for both anglers and floaters, having 26,639 visitors in 2008. The total revenues from camping was $2,639 in 2008, and the annual operations and personal services costs average $4,181. The project proposes to replace the two pioneered boat ramps with a single double-wide concrete boat ramp and stabilize and revegetate the stream bank along the remaining pioneered area. If funds are available, FWP also proposes to install barriers and/or fencing to protect and stabilize the stream bank, improve the existing gravel parking lot, and replace existing fire rings and picnic tables. Building a concrete boat ramp and revegetating the remaining pioneered area will reduce sedimentation into the river and reduce erosion of the stream bank.

Figure 4. Existing pioneered boat ramps at Salmon Fly FAS

Figure 5. Salmon Fly FAS development preliminary concept site plan



PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:**

Alternative A: No Action

Use of the pioneered boat launches would continue as well as bank erosion resulting in additional sedimentation into the Big Hole River. There would be no revegetation or stabilization of the remaining pioneered area or other portions of the stream bank. The parking area would not be improved nor would fire rings or picnic tables be replaced. FWP will continue to provide routine maintenance to the existing park facilities as it has done in the past.

Preferred Alternative B: Proposed Action –

Replacing the two pioneered boat ramps with a single double-wide concrete boat ramp, and stabilizing and revegetating the remaining pioneered area; improving the existing gravel parking lot; installing barriers and/or fencing to protect and stabilize the stream bank; and replacing existing fire rings and picnic tables.

2. **Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**
   There are no mitigations, stipulations, or other controls associated with this action. Therefore, no evaluation is necessary. Final design plans and specifications for the proposed project will be developed by FWP staff. All county, state, and federal permits listed in Part I 8 (a) above will be obtained by FWP as required. A private contractor selected through the State's contracting processes will complete the construction.

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Yes	1b.
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?			X		Positive	1d.
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X			.	

1b. A small portion of stream bank will be overlain by a concrete slab that will serve as a boat ramp. FWP Best Management Practices for Fishing Access Sites will be followed. (Appendix D)

1d. The concrete ramp will resist erosion. The recontouring and revegetation of the pioneered sites will reduce erosion. A fence or barrier along the shoreline will prevent vehicle intrusion and improve bank stability.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. AIR **Will the proposed action result in:**	**IMPACT ***					
	Unknown *	**None**	**Minor ***	**Potentially Significant**	**Can Impact Be Mitigated ***	**Comment Index**
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X			2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)		NA				

2a. There may be a temporary effect on ambient air quality during the construction of the ramp and stabilization of the other pioneered site from dust and vehicle emissions created by heavy equipment**.**

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3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X			3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			X		Yes	3h.
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		NA				
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		NA				

3a. Construction of the concrete boat ramp will cause a temporary, localized increase in turbidity. FWP will obtain a Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 318 Authorization Permit, as required. FWP Best Management Practices will be followed.

3.h There may be a slight risk of contamination from petroleum products from heavy equipment used during construction and bank stabilization activity.

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4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X		Positive	4b.
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?			X			4c.
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4e.
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		NA				

4a. The most common plants found at Salmon Fly FAS are reed canarygrass, black cottonwood, red-osier dogwood, and willows. Common exotic species found at the FAS include Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome. Common noxious weeds include spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, and hounds tongue. The concrete ramp will displace a small area of native and introduced grasses, forbs, and riparian shrubs. Restoration of the remaining pioneered area will promote the growth of willows and other riparian plants. Fencing/barriers will also encourage riparian plant re-growth.

4.b See comments above on 4a. Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) identified black cottonwood/red-osier dogwood as a common riparian community that has been highly impacted by native ungulates and cattle. This occurrence, which is not truly high quality, still stands out as exceptional. The stabilization of the riverbank will improve riparian plant communities.

4c. NRIS identified two sensitive species that have been reported near this area: annual muhly and mealy primrose. Two Species of Concern have been identified within three miles of the FAS: dwarf phacelia and annual Indian paintbrush. These plant species were identified about two and a half miles from the FAS, but are upland species and will not be affected by the proposed project.

4e. Soils disturbed during ramp construction and bank stabilization may colonize with weeds. Disturbed areas will be reseeded where necessary, and the area will continue to be managed for noxious weeds under the FWP Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan.

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** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

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** 5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				5b.
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				5c.
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				5f.
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X			5g.
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		NA				
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		NA				

5b. and 5c. Common wildlife species that use the FAS include white-tailed and mule deer, bald eagles, occasional moose, migratory song birds, and small mammals (voles, shrews, and mice) There is a low likelihood that there would be changes in the diversity or abundance of game or non-game animals or birds since the FAS is already heavily used.

5f. NRIS identified greater sage grouse within two miles of the FAS. The proposed project is unlikely to have any impact on sage grouse because it is primarily an upland species. NRIS also identified Arctic grayling, another species of concern, in the area. Even though they are present in this section of river, they are rare. The project should have little impact on all aquatic species, including Arctic grayling, because of the small area that will be disturbed and the erosion prevention methods that will be used during construction. Bank restoration and establishment of a permanent boat ramp will have a long-term beneficial effect by reducing sedimentation and improving riparian health. The NRIS report noted that the FAS is within the habitat of gray wolf, and there is wolf activity in the Pioneer Mountains though there are no known collared packs in the area. Wolves are usually found in higher elevations, and there have been no sightings near the project area. Adult bald eagles are also found in the vicinity of Salmon Fly FAS though there are no known bald eagle nests near the project area.

5g. The improved facilities may result in increased use, however, the potential impact on existing wildlife in the area is temporary and minor since the FAS is already heavily used.

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** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

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B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Yes	6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				

6a. Some heavy equipment may be used during ramp construction which will temporarily increase noise levels at the site. FWP Best Management Practices will be followed.

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				

The FAS is currently used for fishing, floating, camping, picnicking, and wildlife viewing and will continue to used for the same purposes.

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** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X		Yes	8a.
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		NA				

8a. Physical disturbance of the soil during construction of the concrete ramp, bank stabilization and parking lot improvement may introduce noxious weeds to the site. FWP already sprays with herbicides to control noxious weeds on the FAS and will continue to use an integrated approach to control any new occurrence of noxious weeds as outlined in the FWP Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan. The integrated plan uses a combination of biological, mechanical, and herbicidal treatments to control noxious weeds.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			9e.

9e. There is a potential for a minor increase in use and therefore increased traffic to the FAS. The proposed improvements to the parking area should help alleviate vehicle congestion at the FAS.

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** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES **Will the proposed action result in:**	**IMPACT ***					
	Unknown *	**None**	**Minor ***	**Potentially Significant**	**Can Impact Be Mitigated ***	**Comment Index**
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. **Define projected revenue sources		X				
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.		X				10 f.

The proposed project will have no impact on public service, taxes or utilities.

10f. Annual operations and personal services costs average $4,181.

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** 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)			X			11c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		NA				

11c. Improving launching facilities and the parking lot will improve the quality of recreation by providing recreationists a more user-friendly site by making loading, unloading, and traffic flow efficient.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)		NA				

According to the Montana Historical Society, even though there have been a few previously recorded sites within the area, they feel that because of the previous disturbance during the initial development there is a low likelihood that cultural properties will be impacted. See Appendix E for SHPO letter.

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**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE **Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:**	**IMPACT ***					
	Unknown *	**None**	**Minor ***	**Potentially Significant**	**Can Impact Be Mitigated ***	**Comment Index**
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		NA				
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		NA				

Because of the limited scope of the proposed improvements, it is expected there will be a limited number of impacts to the physical, biological, and human environments. When considered over the long term, the proposed action poses significant positive effects towards the public's continued access of a popular recreation area on the Big Hole River.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

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PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

Because of the limited scope of the proposed improvements, it is expected there will be a limited number of impacts to the physical, biological, and human environments. When considered over the long term, the proposed action poses significant positive effects towards the public's continued access of a popular recreation area on the Big Hole River.

The minor impacts that were identified in the previous section are small in scale and will not influence the overall environment of the immediate area. The natural environment will continue to exist to provide habitat to transient and permanent wildlife species and will continue to be open to the public for access to the river for fishing, floating, boating, wildlife viewing, and camping.

Many of the minor impacts are expected to be only for the relatively short duration of the construction period with no lasting negative effects on the local environment. For those actions requiring minor mitigation, such as the disturbances to soils that could increase the possibility of noxious weeds spreading at the site, efforts will be taken to diminish those impacts.

Construction of the concrete boat ramp and stabilization of the pioneered area will help ensure soil stability along the bank. The proposed alternative will have little impact on the local wildlife species that frequent the property, will not increase negative conditions that stress wildlife populations, and is not considered critical habitat for any species. Revegetation of the bank should improve the habitat for species in the area.

The Big Hole River supports the last remaining native population of fluvial Arctic grayling, a species of special concern, in the lower 48 states. The highest concentration of Arctic grayling occur in the upper reaches of the Big Hole River and are not expected to be affected by the construction of the boat ramp or by stabilization activities and will ultimately benefit their population by reducing sedimentation into the river.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Describe the level of public involvement for this project, if any, and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on the proposed improvements of Salmon Fly FAS:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: the *Montana Standard,* the *Dillon Tribune,* and the *Helena Independent Record*
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: *http://fwp.mt.gov.*
- Direct notice will be given to adjacent landowners.
- Draft EA's will be available at the Region 3 headquarters in Bozeman and the State Headquarters in Helena.
- A news release will be prepared and distributed to a standard list of media outlets interested in FWP Region 3 issue

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having limited impacts, many of which can be mitigated.

2. Duration of comment period, if any.

The public comment period will extend for (30) thirty days following the publication of the second legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., July 31, 2009, and can be e-mailed to tgarrett@mt.gov or mailed to the address below:

Todd Garrett
Salmon Fly Fishing Access Site EA
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

If requested, FWP will schedule and conduct a public meeting on this proposed project.

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? NO
If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Based on an evaluation of impacts to the physical and human environment under MEPA, this environmental review revealed no significant negative impacts from the proposed action. Therefore, an EIS is not necessary and an environmental assessment is the appropriate level of analysis. In determining the significance of the impacts, Fish, Wildlife and Parks assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact, the probability that the impact would occur, or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur. FWP assessed the growth-inducing or growth-inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, any precedent that would be set as a result of an impact of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions, and potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws. As this EA revealed no significant impacts from the proposed actions, an EA is the appropriate level of review, and an EIS is not required.

2. Persons responsible for preparing the EA:

Jerry Walker
Regional Parks Manager, Region 3
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718
gwalker@mt.gov
406-994-4042

Andrea Darling
FWP EA Contractor
39 Big Dipper Drive
Montana City, MT 59634
apdarling@gmail.com

Todd Garrett
Fishing Access Site Manager
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

tgarrett@mt.gov
406-994-4042

3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Parks Division, Region 3
- Wildlife Division, Region 3
- Fisheries Division, Region 3
- Design & Construction Bureau
- Legal Bureau

Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)
Beaverhead County Weed Board

APPENDICES

A. MCA 23-1-110 Qualification Checklist
B. Native Species Report Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP)
C. Tourism Report – Department of Commerce
D. Best Management Practices Final FAS BMP's Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
E. Clearance Letter – State Historic Preservation Office

APPENDIX A
23-1-110 MCA
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date: June 5, 2009 **Person Reviewing:** Andrea Darling

Project Location: Salmon Fly FAS is along the Big Hole River one half mile south of the community of Melrose in Beaverhead County, Section 35 T2S R9W.

Description of Proposed Work: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to construct a double-wide concrete boat ramp in place of a pioneered boat ramp and to stabilize and revegetate the remaining pioneered area to protect and stabilize the stream bank and reduce sedimentation into the river.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check ✓ all that apply and comment as necessary.)

[ ] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?

[ ] B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?

[x] C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments: *This project will require more than 20 c.y. of material to be excavated during the construction of the ramp and bank stabilization.*

[x] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments: *The proposed project will increase parking capacity by 25% or more by gravelling the center island, allowing more truck/trailer spaces. The overall capacity will remain the same but there is a larger area identified for parking.*

[ ] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double-wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?

[ ] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments: *There will be no new construction, just improving the existing ramp.*

[ ] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments: *The SHPO has not requested an additional cultural inventory for the proposed project.*

[ ] H. Any new above ground utility lines?

[ ] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments: *No additional campsites are proposed.*

[ ] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?

If any of the above is checked, 23-1-110 MCA rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

APPENDIX B

SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE SALMON FLY FAS AREA

Species of Concern Terms and Definitions

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database (http://nris.mt.gov) indicates no known occurrences of federally listed endangered, threatened or proposed threatened or endangered plant or animal species in the proposed project site. Mealy primrose, dwarf phacelia and annual Indian paintbrush were found in an upland site about two miles from the project area. The search also indicated that the project area is within the habitat for gray wolf, greater sage grouse and Arctic grayling. Please see the next page for more information on these species.

Montana Species of Concern. The term **"Species of Concern"** includes taxa that are at-risk or potentially at-risk due to rarity, restricted distribution, habitat loss, and/or other factors. The term also encompasses species that have a special designation by organizations or land management agencies in Montana, including: Bureau of Land Management Special Status and Watch species; U.S. Forest Service Sensitive and Watch species; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species.

Status Ranks (Global and State)

The international network of Natural Heritage Programs employs a standardized ranking system to denote global (**G** -- range-wide) and state status (**S**) (Nature Serve 2003). Species are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are "at-risk". Rank definitions are given below. A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks -- the number, size and distribution of known "occurrences" or populations, population trends (if known), habitat sensitivity, and threat. Factors in a species' life history that make it especially vulnerable are also considered (e.g., dependence on a specific pollinator).

Status Ranks

Code	Definition
G1 S1	At high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
G2 S2	At risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
G3 S3	Potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.
G4 S4	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern.
G5 S5	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.

SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE VICINITY OF SALMON FLY FAS BIG HOLE RIVER

1. **Centrocercus urophansianus (Greater Sage Grouse)**

Natural Heritage Ranks	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G4**	U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

No Element Occurrence data reported of greater sage grouse in the proximate area of this parcel. Last observation date was 1994.

2. **Thymallus arcticus (Arctic Grayling)**

Natural Heritage Ranks	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S1**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G5**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

No Element Occurrence data reported of Arctic grayling in the proximate area of this parcel.

3. **Canis Lupus (Gray Wolf)**

Natural Heritage Ranks	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S3**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: **LE**
Global: **G4**	U.S. Forest Service: **Endangered**
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Special Status**

No Element Occurrence data reported of gray wolf in the proximate area of this parcel. Last observation date was 2006.

4. **Phacelia scopulina (Dwarf Phacelia)**

Natural Heritage Ranks	Federal Agency Status:
State: **SH**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G4**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

No Element Occurrence data was reported of dwarf phacelia in the proximate area of this parcel.

5. **Primula incana (Mealy Primrose)**

Natural Heritage Ranks	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G4G5**	U.S. Forest Service: SENSITIVE
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

No Element Occurrence data was reported of mealy primrose in the proximate area of this parcel. Last observation date was 1997.

6. **Castilleja exilis (Annual Indian Paintbrush)**

Natural Heritage Ranks	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G5**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

No Element Occurrence data reported of Greater Sage Grouse in the proximate area of this parcel. Last observation date was 1994.

APPENDIX C

TOURISM REPORT

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) & MCA 23-1-110

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by MCA 23-1-110 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Project Name: Salmon Fly Fishing Access Site Proposed Development

Project Description:

The Salmon Fly Fishing Access Site (FAS) is a very popular site even though it currently has limited development. FWP proposes to develop key elements of this FAS to reduce impacts to the stream and stream bank from heavy use. FWP proposes to replace 2 pioneered boat ramps with one double-wide concrete ramp and stabilize and re-vegetate the remaining pioneered area. If funds are available, FWP also proposes to improve the existing gravel parking lot; install barriers and/or fencing to protect and stabilize the stream bank; and replace existing fire rings and picnic tables.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?
   NO YES If **YES**, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to positively impact the tourism and recreation industry economy.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?
   NO YES If **YES**, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to improve the quality and quantity of tourism and recreational opportunities.

Signature Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager Date 5/29/09

2/93
7/98sed

APPENDIX D

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR FISHING ACCESS SITES
10-02-02
Updated May 1, 2008

I. ROADS

A. Road Planning and location

1. Minimize the number of roads constructed at the FAS through comprehensive road planning, recognizing foreseeable future uses.

    a. Use existing roads, unless use of such roads would cause or aggravate an erosion problem.

2. Fit the road to the topography by locating roads on natural benches and following natural contours. Avoid long, steep road grades and narrow canyons.

3. Locate roads on stable geology, including well-drained soils and rock formations that tend to dip into the slope. Avoid slumps and slide-prone areas characterized by steep slopes, highly weathered bedrock, clay beds, concave slopes, hummocky topography, and rock layers that dip parallel to the slope. Avoid wet areas, including seeps, wetlands, wet meadows, and natural drainage channels.

4. Minimize the number of stream crossings.

    a. Choose stable stream crossing sites. “Stable” refers to streambanks with erosion-resistant materials and in hydrologically safe spots.

B. Road Design

1. Design roads to the minimum standard necessary to accommodate anticipated use and equipment. The need for higher engineering standards can be alleviated through proper road-use management. “Standard” refers to road width.

2. Design roads to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns. Vary road grades to reduce concentrated flow in road drainage ditches, culverts, and on fill slopes and road surfaces.

C. Drainage from Road Surface

1. Provide adequate drainage from the surface of all permanent and temporary roads. Use outsloped, insloped or crowned roads, installing proper drainage features. Space road drainage features so peak flow on road surface or in ditches will not exceed their capacity.

    a. Outsloped roads provide means of dispersing water in a low-energy flow from the road surface. Outsloped roads are appropriate when fill slopes are

stable, drainage will not flow directly into stream channels, and transportation safety can be met.

b. For insloped roads, plan ditch gradients steep enough, generally greater than 2%, but less than 8%, to prevent sediment deposition and ditch erosion. The steeper gradients may be suitable for more stable soils; use the lower gradients for less stable soils.

c. Design and install road surface drainage features at adequate spacing to control erosion; steeper gradients require more frequent drainage features. Properly constructed drain dips can be an economical method of road surface drainage. Construct drain dips deep enough into the sub-grade so that traffic will not obliterate them.

2. For ditch relief/culverts, construct stable catch basins at stable angles. Protect the inflow end of cross-drain culverts from plugging and armor if in erodible soil. Skewing ditch relief culverts 20 to 30 degrees toward the inflow from the ditch will improve inlet efficiency.

3. Provide energy dissipators (rock piles, slash, log chunks, etc.) where necessary to reduce erosion at outlet of drainage features. Cross-drains, culverts, water bars, dips, and other drainage structures should not discharge onto erodible soils or fill slopes without outfall protection.

4. Route road drainage through adequate filtration zones, or other sediment-settling structures. Install road drainage features above stream crossings to route discharge into filtration zones before entering a stream.

D. Construction/Reconstruction

1. Stabilize erodible, exposed soils by seeding, compacting, riprapping, benching, mulching, or other suitable means.

2. At the toe of potentially erodible fill slopes, particularly near stream channels, pile slash in a row parallel to the road to trap sediment. When done concurrently with road construction, this is one method to effectively control sediment movement and it also provides an economical way of disposing of roadway slash. Limit the height, width and length of these “slash filter windrows” so not to impede wildlife movement. Sediment fabric fences or other methods may be used if effective.

3. Construct cut and fill slopes at stable angles to prevent sloughing and subsequent erosion.

4. Avoid incorporating potentially unstable woody debris in the fill portion of the road prism. Where possible, leave existing rooted trees or shrubs at the toe of the fill slope to stabilize the fill.

5. Place debris, overburden, and other waste materials associated with construction and maintenance activities in a location to avoid entry into streams. Include these waste areas in soil stabilization planning for the road.

6. When using existing roads, reconstruct only to the extent necessary to provide adequate drainage and safety; avoid disturbing stable road surfaces. Consider abandoning existing roads when their use would aggravate erosion.

E. Road Maintenance

1. Grade road surfaces only as often as necessary to maintain a stable running surface and to retain the original surface drainage.

2. Maintain erosion control features through periodic inspection and maintenance, including cleaning dips and cross-drains, repairing ditches, marking culvert inlets to aid in location, and clearing debris from culverts.

3. Avoid cutting the toe of cut slopes when grading roads, pulling ditches, or plowing snow.

4. Avoid using roads during wet periods if such use would likely damage the road drainage features. Consider gates, barricades or signs to limit use of roads during wet periods.

II. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (parking areas, campsites, trails, ramps, restrooms)

A. Site Design

1. Design a site that best fits the topography, soil type, and stream character, while minimizing soil disturbance and economically accomplishing recreational objectives. Keep roads and parking lots at least 50 feet from water; if closer, mitigate with vegetative buffers as necessary.

2. Locate foot trails to avoid concentrating runoff and provide breaks in grade as needed. Locate trails and parking areas away from natural drainage systems and divert runoff to stable areas. Limit the grade of trails on unstable, saturated, highly erosive, or easily compacted soils

3. Scale the number of boat ramps, campsites, parking areas, bathroom facilities, etc. to be commensurate with existing and anticipated needs. Facilities should not invite such use that natural features will be degraded.

4. Provide adequate barriers to minimize off-road vehicle use

B. Maintenance: Soil Disturbance and Drainage

1. Maintenance operations minimize soil disturbance around parking lots, swimming areas and campsites, through proper placement and dispersal of such facilities or by reseeding disturbed ground. Drainage from such facilities should be promoted through proper grading.

2. Maintain adequate drainage for ramps by keeping side drains functional or by

maintaining drainage of road surface above ramps or by crowning (on natural surfaces).

3. Maintain adequate drainage for trails. Use mitigating measures, such as water bars, wood chips, and grass seeding, to reduce erosion on trails.

4. When roads are abandoned during reconstruction or to implement site-control, they must be reseeded and provided with adequate drainage so that periodic maintenance is not required.

III. RAMPS AND STREAM CROSSINGS

A. Legal Requirements

1. Relevant permits must be obtained prior to building bridges across streams or boat ramps. Such permits include the SPA 124 permit, the COE 404 permit, and the DNRC Floodplain Development Permit.

B. Design Considerations

1. Placement of boat ramp should be such that boats can load and unload with out difficulty and the notch in the bank where the ramp was placed does not encourage bank erosion. Extensions of boat ramps beyond the natural bank can also encourage erosion.

2. Adjust the road grade or provide drainage features (e.g. rubber flaps) to reduce the concentration of road drainage to stream crossings and boat ramps. Direct drainage flow through an adequate filtration zone and away from the ramp or crossing through the use of gravel side-drains, crowning (on natural surfaces) or 30-degree angled grooves on concrete ramps.

3. Avoid unimproved stream crossings on permanent streams. On ephemeral streams, when a culvert or bridge is not feasible, locate drive-throughs on a stable, rocky portion of the stream channel.

4. Unimproved (non-concrete) ramps should only be used when the native soils are sufficiently gravelly or rocky to withstand the use at the site and to resist erosion.

C. Installation of Stream Crossings and Ramps

1. Minimize stream channel disturbances and related sediment problems during construction of road and installation of stream crossing structures. Do not place erodible material into stream channels. Remove stockpiled material from high water zones. Locate temporary construction bypass roads in locations where the stream course will have a minimal disturbance. Time the construction activities to protect fisheries and water quality.

2. Where ramps enter the stream channel, they should follow the natural streambed in order to avoid changing stream hydraulics and to optimize use of boat trailers.

3. Use culverts with a minimum diameter of 15 inches for permanent stream crossings and cross drains. Proper sizing of culverts may dictate a larger pipe and should be based on a 50-year flow recurrence interval. Install culverts to conform to the natural streambed and slope on all perennial streams and on intermittent streams that support fish or that provide seasonal fish passage. Place culverts slightly below normal stream grade to avoid culvert outfall barriers. Do not alter stream channels upstream from culverts, unless necessary to protect fill or to prevent culvert blockage. Armor the inlet and/or outlet with rock or other suitable material where needed.

4. Prevent erosion of boat ramps and the affected streambank through proper placement (so as to not catch the stream current) and hardening (riprap or erosion resistant woody vegetation).

5. Maintain a 1-foot minimum cover for culverts 18-36 inches in diameter, and a cover of one-third diameter for larger culverts to prevent crushing by traffic.

APPENDIX E
CLEARANCE LETTER- STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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May 26, 2009

Bardell Mangum
FWP
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701

RE: 6 FWP FAS FILE SEARCHES FOR DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS.
SHPO Project #: 2009052604

Dear Bardell:

Below you will find the results of my file searches as well as our recommendations for the fishing access sites.

FWP FILE #676.1 PAIR-A-DICE FAS

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Sections 21, 28, T19N R25W. According to our records there has been one previously recorded site within the designated search locales. Site 24SA0240 is the Malmburg home, which was located near the current bridge over the Clark Fork River. The home seems to have been removed during the bridge project. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the areas, but none show that this current project area has been inventoried. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

Based on the lack of previous inventory in the area and the ground disturbance required by the new parking spaces, road, boat ramp, and latrine we feel that this project has the potential to impact cultural properties. We, therefore, recommend that a cultural resource inventory be conducted in order to determine whether or not sites exist and if they will be impacted.

FWP FILE #424.1 HARPER'S BRIDGE FAS

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Sections 35, 36, T14N R21W. According to our records there have been no previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. The absence of cultural properties in the area does not mean that they do not exist but rather may reflect the absence of any previous cultural resource inventory in the area, as our records indicated none.

225 North Roberts Street
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201
(406) 444-2694
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Based on the lack of previous inventory in the area and the ground disturbance required by the new parking spaces, road, boat ramp, and latrine we feel that this project has the potential to impact cultural properties. We, therefore, recommend that a cultural resource inventory be conducted in order to determine whether or not sites exist and if they will be impacted.

FWP FILE #789.3 SALMON FLY FAS

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 35, T2S R9W. According to our records there have been a few previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the areas. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

We feel that because of the previous disturbance in the area there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated.

FWP FILE #402.2 GLEN FAS

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Sections 24, 25, T4S R9W. According to our records there have been a few previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. Site 24BE0899 is a potential burial location located within the existing FAS. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the areas. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

Because the exact burial location is not known, and that the last inventory of the area was conducted over ten years ago we feel that any new ground disturbance has the potential to impact cultural properties. We, therefore, recommend that a cultural resource inventory be conducted in order to determine whether or not sites exist and if they will be impacted.

FWP FILE #719.1 POWERHOUSE FAS

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 11, T1S R10W. According to our records there have been no previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. There has been one previously

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recorded cultural resource inventory conducted at this location. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

Because the previous inventory was conducted over ten years ago, and there will be new ground disturbance associated with the latrine, parking, and boat ramp we feel that this project has the potential to impact cultural properties. We, therefore, recommend that a cultural resource inventory be conducted in order to determine whether or not sites exist and if they will be impacted.

FWP FILE #460A.1 HOLMGREN FAS

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Sections 35, 36, T14N R21W. According to our records there have been no previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. The absence of cultural properties in the area does not mean that they do not exist but rather may reflect the absence of any previous cultural resource inventory in the area, as our records indicated none.

Based on the lack of previous inventory in the area and the ground disturbance required by the new parking spaces, road, boat ramp, and latrine we feel that this project has the potential to impact cultural properties. We, therefore, recommend that a cultural resource inventory be conducted in order to determine whether or not sites exist and if they will be impacted.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at dmurdo@mt.gov. Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager
State Historic Preservation Office

File: FWP/PARKS/2009

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